invention will be described in detail referring to Fig. 7 through Fig. 9

Fig. 7 is a flowchart showing a method according to another preferred embodiment of this invention.

First, a plurality of the digital music files distributed on the network N are searched for by a searching and editing terminal 10 connected to the network N at step S110. At this time, the searched digital music file is the music file derived from a record of the cooperating record corporation, and the digital music file can be searched by a generally used file sharing program. Preferably, the sharing program has a relatively high recognition degree among the users and wide popularization, and is used to search for the music file.

As an example, Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 are views displaying searching for the music file shared on the network N by the widely popularized music file programs such as "Napster" or "Soribada".

If the illegally produced music file derived from the record of the cooperating record corporation is found at step S120 according to the searching result at step S110, the found digital music file is collected according to the kinds of music at step S130. Generally, one digital music file per a piece of music is collected. However, if necessary, a plurality of music files per a piece of music can be collected.

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According to the kinds of music, if only some part of the music files shared on the network N are collected, it is preferable to collect one among the shared music files in which many copies of the same file have the same name, size

5   and playing time. The greater the numbers of the music file with a same name, size and playing time, the higher probability of its being reproduced later by another user, due to its wide distribution through the network to many users.

Referring to Fig. 7 again, the collected music file is

10 edited to deteriorate or damage its sound quality at step S140. At this time, a method to deteriorate or damage the digital music file in sound quality may include the functions of 1) inserting noise component such as voice for publicity of a singer or performer in the music using a well-known music

15 file editing program tool, 2) lowering a sampling rate of the collected digital music file than that of the original music 3)distorting a waveform of the music file, and 4) converting a multi-channel sound of the music file into a single-channel sound.

20 In this case, preferably, the edited music file is edited to have the same file name, file size and playing time as those of the collected music file.

Next, the damaged or deteriorated music file by editing is distributed over the network N again at S150.   To

25 distribute the edited music file over the network N, a popular

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music file sharing program(e.g. "Napster" or "Soribada") is used, thus sharing the music file with the normal users equally as shown at step S30 of Fig. 3.

As described above, when the edited digital music file is shared on the network N, an illegally produced music file containing an original sound quality is distributed along with the edited digital music file. Through the above process, the music file users listen to the edited digital music file, such that it decreases the reliability of the illegal music file on the network N and then induces a distrust of the sound quality of the illegal music file by the users, thus stimulating the users to purchase the formal record.

The digital music files generated or edited by the present invention have a very low sound quality compared with the original music, and thus, preferably, it can be used only for "Pre-listening" on the network rather than possessing it like a record. So the user having listened to the music file on the network is induced to purchase the formal record if he prefers it, thus achieving an essential function of publicity. In other words, an illegally produced music file according to the prior art encroaches the record market, while the present invention can promote the record market by propagating new music with the distributed music file.

As described above, only the case of sharing and searching the digital music file, which is generated and

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